

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated May 27, 2005. Prior to entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-21 and 25-31 remained pending in the application. Pursuant to the present Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9-12, 16, 20, 25 and 26 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 17 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been added.

In the Office action, claims 6, 7, 9, 16, 19, 25-28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heintz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,488). Claims 1, 4, 13-15, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Onishi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0008852). Claims 2, 3, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Rodriguez, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,082,864). Claims 10-12 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Kondo (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,004).

In view of the foregoing amendments, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

As previously noted, claims 6, 7, 9, 16, 19, 25-28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Heintz et al. Heintz et al. discloses a safety interlock switch for use in connection with the lamp module of a projector. According to Heintz et al., once a lamp module has been fully inserted into a cavity, the lamp module may be "covered with an access panel (not shown) that snaps into

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place and is secured to enclosure 12 by a pair of cantilevered snap latches 18." Col. 3, lines 11-14. As indicated, the access panel is "not shown" in Heintz et al.

The access panel is not even described in Heintz et al. other than to indicate that it may be secured to enclosure 12 by cantilever snap latches 18. There is absolutely no indication of any relationship of the access panel to the enclosure once the panel is opened. Moreover, there is no indication of a projector component that is only removable when the panel is open, no indication of a panel which provides access to a control panel, and no indication of an access panel which remains accessible when the projector is mounted to a ceiling. In fact, there is no indication that the Heintz et al. projector is mountable to a ceiling. The Examiner, in fact, acknowledges the latter point in the present Office action (page 6, lines 3-4).

As amended, claim 6 recites a digital projector that includes a projector housing and a manually operable panel that provides access to the interior of the projector housing and remains **connected to** the projector housing while open. Claim 6 further recites that "the panel provides access to a projector component that is a control panel" and that "the digital projector is configured so that the [control panel] is only removable when the panel is open."

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest an openable panel that provides access to the projector control panel (located on the top of enclosure 12 in Fig. 1 of Heintz et al.), and thus does not disclose or suggest a control panel which is "only removable when the panel is open," as recited in amended claim 6. Moreover, Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a panel which remains connected to the projector housing while open. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the access panel of Heintz et al. is not even shown. Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or

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suggest the subject matter recited in claim 6, and the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 7 recites a digital projector, including "a projector housing", and "a manually openable panel that provides access to the interior of the projector housing. Claim 7 further recites that "the panel remains connected to the projector housing while open", that "the panel provides access to a projector component that is a control panel", and that "the panel additionally provides access to a projector component that includes a lamp module".

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that remains connected to the projector housing while open, and does not disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that "provides access to a projector component that is a control panel. In fact, as noted above, the access panel of Heintz et al. is not even shown. Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 7, and the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 9 recites a digital projector that includes "a projector housing" and "a manually operable panel that provides access to the interior of the projector housing and remains connected to the projector housing while open". Claim 9 further recites that "the panel provides access to a projector component that is a control panel" and that "the digital projector is configured so that the control panel is accessible when the panel is closed".

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a panel which remains connected to the projector housing while open. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the access panel of Heintz et al. is not even shown. Furthermore, Heintz et al. does not disclose

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or suggest an openable panel that provides access to the projector control panel (which actually is located on the top of enclosure 12 in Fig. 1 of Heintz et al.) and thus does not disclose or suggest a control panel which is accessible via the manually openable panel. Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 9, and the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

Claim 16 recites a method of making a digital projector, the method including providing a projector housing, providing a projector access panel, connecting the access panel to the projector housing so that the access panel remains connected to the projector housing while open, configuring the access panel to be manually openable, and configuring the access panel to be accessible when the digital projector is mounted to a ceiling.

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest connecting the access panel to the projector housing so that the access panel remains connected to the projector housing while open. In fact, the access panel of Heintz et al. is not even shown. Heintz et al. also fails to disclose or suggest configuring an access panel to be accessible when the digital projector is mounted to the ceiling. Heintz et al. fails to even disclose a digital projector configured to mount to the ceiling. The Examiner specifically acknowledges this in the present Office action (page 6, lines 3-5). Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 16, and the rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 25 recites a method of upgrading a digital projector, where the digital projector includes a manually openable panel that provides access to a

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projector component that is a control panel module, where the panel remains connected to the projector while open, the method including manually opening the panel, and upgrading the control panel module, where upgrading the component includes removing the component and inserting a replacement component.

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that "remains *connected* to the projector while open" (emphasis added), and does not disclose or suggest "upgrading the control panel module". Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 25, and the rejection of claim 25 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 26 recites a digital projector, including "means for projecting an image", "means for housing the projecting means", and means for providing access to the interior of the housing means, where the means for providing access is manually operable and remains coupled to the housing means, and is accessible when the digital projector is mounted to a ceiling".

Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest "means for providing access" that is manually operable and that "remains coupled to the housing means, and is accessible when the digital projector is mounted to a ceiling". In fact, as noted above, and as recognized by the Examiner in the present Office action, Heintz et al. does not even disclose a digital projector configured to be mounted to a ceiling. Therefore, Heintz et al. fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 26, and the rejection of claim 26 under 35 USC § 102(b) based on Heintz et al. must be withdrawn.

Claim 19 depends directly from claim 16, and thus is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 16. Claims 27, 28, 30 and 31 depend directly or indirectly

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from claim 26 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 26. For the purpose of brevity, applicants are not presenting a discussion of each of these dependent claims or presenting each additional reason why these dependent claims patentably distinguish the cited reference.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 13-15, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Onishi et al. Claims 2, 3, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Rodriguez, Jr. et al. Claims 10-12 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heintz et al. in view of Kondo.

As amended, claim 1 recites a digital projector configured to mount to a ceiling, the projector including a projector housing and "a manually openable panel that provides access to the interior of the projector housing, where the panel remains connected to the projector housing while open." Claim 1 also recites that the panel "is accessible when the digital projector is mounted to the ceiling." As noted generally above, Heintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that remains connected to the projector housing while open, and does not disclose or suggest a panel that is accessible when the digital projector is mounted to the ceiling. The Examiner acknowledges the latter point in the present Office action (page 6, lines 3-5), and thus cites Onishi et al. as disclosing a projector housing mounted to a ceiling.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, however, neither Heintz et al., nor Onishi et al. disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that remains connected to the projector housing while open. Furthermore, even if the Heintz et al. projector

were mounted to the ceiling as the Examiner proposes, the access panel (not shown in Heintz et al.) would not remain accessible. As noted in Heintz et al., the access panel is mounted to the housing via snap latches 18 (col. 3, lines 11-14). Snap latches 18 are disposed on the proposed mounting surface of the housing (the surface opposite the control panel), leaving the access panel *inaccessible* to the user in the proposed configuration.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Heintz et al. and Onishi et al., and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Claims 4 and 13-15 depend from claim 1, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 20 now recites a method of changing a lamp in a ceiling-mounted digital projector which includes a manually openable panel that provides access to the lamp, where the manually openable panel remains connected to the projector when open. As noted above, neither Heintz et al., nor Onishi et al. disclose or suggest a manually openable panel that remains connected to the projector while open.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 20 is allowable over Heintz et al. and Onishi et al., and the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Claim 21 depends from claim 20, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20.

As amended, claims 10-12 recite a digital projector comprising a housing and a panel that provides access to the interior of the housing and remains coupled to the housing. As previously noted, Heintz et al. discloses a projector with a removable access panel (not shown). Kondo discloses an integrally-molded card holder in a copier machine. Neither Heintz et al., nor Kondo, nor an combination

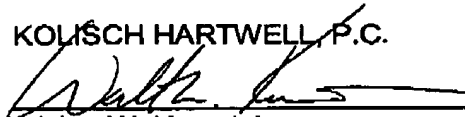
thereof, disclose or suggest a projector having a panel that remains coupled to the housing when open. Furthermore, the proposed combination of a projector and a copy machine is counter intuitive, and no suggestion to make such combination has been identified in the art. Therefore, applicants submit that Heintz et al. and Kondo, neither individually nor in combination, disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 10-12 and request that the rejection of these claims under 35 USC § 103(a) based on Heintz et al. in view of Kondo be withdrawn.

Conclusions

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner R. Blackman, Group Art Unit 2851, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on August 25, 2005.


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